

# COUNCIL BRIEFS

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July 31, 2015

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**WHPD selected as Top K-9 team in New England!** Officer Tom Lazure and West Hartford's K-9 Jett were selected from among six finalists for the title of 2014 K-9 Hero by the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association.

Exceptional work in tracking and capturing an armed suspect who had fired at an innocent victim and a police officer earned the K-9 team a spot in the finals for K-9 Hero of the Year. The winner was determined by the team who received the most votes from public.

The award was presented at a pre-game ceremony on the field at Boston's Fenway Park prior to the Red Sox game on July 27, 2015.

**A Family Movie Under the Stars:** Bring your family, lawn chairs and refreshments to an outdoor showing of BIG HERO 6 on Thursday, August 6 at 8:30 PM. This family-friendly movie will be projected onto the wall of the Puritan Furniture building. The event is free but tickets must be obtained in advance by calling the Faxon Library at 860-561-8201. This Elmwood neighborhood event now in its tenth year is made possible by the generous support from the Liftig Family, Sheehan-Hillborn-Breen Funeral Home, Kearns and Kearns PC, and the Friends of the West Hartford Public Library. (In the event of rain, the movie will be shown at the Elmwood Community Center.)

**1, 2, 3 Read with Me program gets children ready for school:** Twenty seven pre-kindergarteners participated in the Family Resource Center's summer program at Smith STEM School from June 29 through July 24. All of the participating children will be entering kindergarten at the Charter Oak International Academy or Smith STEM School in September. The curriculum introduced children to the skills they will need to succeed in school, including vocabulary building, preparing for reading, hands-on math activities, and being comfortable in the school environment. The program is one of many provided by the Bridge's Family

Resource Center that serves more than 950 children and parents in West Hartford each year.

**Revaluation data collection begins:** The Assessment Office is sending letters to 5,000 properties that have not had a physical inspection in ten years. The letter asks homeowners to grant permission to have their home measured and property characteristics noted, such as the type of home (Colonial, Cape, etc.), square footage, number of baths and bedrooms. The purpose of recording the information is to validate town's data so the 2016 Revaluation is accurate.

The work will be performed by six data collectors from Tyler Technologies from August to October 2015. A brochure containing a photo of each of the collectors and a description of their vehicles accompanied the letter. The brochure also answers frequently asked questions about the revaluation process.

**Proper disposal of dog litter:** Dog owners can help prevent contamination of local waterways and parklands by properly disposing of dog waste in trash receptacles or a place specifically designated for dog waste. Never throw dog waste into the grate of a catch basin in the road. Catch basins are part of West Hartford's underground storm drainage system that discharged into waterways such as the Trout Brook and Rockledge Brook.

**Cooling Centers:** When the weather is too hot to stay at home, go to the Elmwood Senior Center or West Hartford Senior Center. The senior centers offer cold drinks and a lounge in which to relax, read, watch TV, and visit with friends in a nice and cool environment.

The three public libraries and Westfarms Mall are also good places to go to get away from the excessive heat.

Ronald F. Van Winkle  
Town Manager